

Executive Registry
78-1901/1

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

Pres. Registry
78-2601/1

December 18, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Agency Implementing Procedures Under the
National Environmental Policy Act and CEQ Regulations

I am writing to thank you for your assistance in carrying out President Carter's NEPA reform and to offer CEQ assistance in the development of your agency's new NEPA procedures to be issued in compliance with Executive Order 11991 (May 24, 1977) and the Council's regulations (43 Fed. Reg. 55978, Nov. 29, 1978). These regulations, implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, will become effective for most agencies on July 30, 1979 (Sec. 1506.12). Agencies may choose to act earlier, and under certain statutory programs (applicable primarily to HUD and DOT) the effective date is later. The regulations will replace the Council's 1973 Guidelines under which all agencies now operate (40 C.F.R. Sec. 1500.1 et seq.). A reprint of the new regulations is enclosed.

The regulations provide a uniform and efficient procedure binding on all federal agencies. We expect them to reduce paperwork, to reduce delays, and to produce better decisions in order to further the national policy of protecting and enhancing the quality of the human environment.

The regulations provide that each agency shall adopt "implementing procedures" to make the regulations applicable to their operations (Sec. 1507.3) prior to the July 30, 1979 effective date. Each agency should develop procedures in consultation with the Council and the public which provide clear guidance on the integration of NEPA with agency planning and decisionmaking. I have written in more detail to your agency's NEPA contact. Questions should be addressed to our General Counsel, Nicholas C. Yost, at (202) 633-7032 or (202) 395-5750.

With your help and that of other agencies and the public, the Council now has completed its primary task of developing NEPA regulations. Your task is about to begin. Each agency must, first, adopt its implementing procedures and, second, administer the Act, the regulations, and the procedures in order to achieve the goals set forth by the Congress and by President Carter. The new regulations will only be as effective as agency implementation of them. We stand ready to assist you in making this part of the President's NEPA reform effort a success.

Charles Warren
CHARLES WARREN
Chairman

DAVE: Our present procedures must be revised to meet the stipulations of the new NEPA and CEQ regulations. BELIEVE OL/P/PS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN PARTICIPATING WITH CED TO DEVELOP THESE

DAVE, HAVE WE RECEIVED THIS YET?

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